



Sen. Joyce Mulliken's UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA 2/20/04

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Committee Assignments

Land Use & Planning (Chair)
Highways & Transportation
Commerce & Trade
Natural Resources, Energy
& Water (Ex officio member)

**Join my 13th District
House colleagues
and me every
Tuesday morning at
9:00 am on KBSN,
1470 AM in Moses
Lake. I encourage
you to tune in and
learn more about
what's happening in
Olympia. You can
even call the show
and ask questions
on the air!**



SR 28 at Adams Road: One of the two high-accident intersections that will be widened and improved as part of a \$398,000 safety project.

Dear Friends,

On Thursday (Feb. 19), the state's leading economist, Dr. Chang Mook Sohn, told us that revenues for the rest of this biennium look to be about \$76 million higher than previous estimates.

While this is indeed good news, we must not throw caution to the wind. Seventy-six million dollars may seem like a lot to you and me, but it only represents 0.3 percent of the budget! And, we're still looking at a \$1 - \$1.5 billion shortfall next session. Every penny we spend this year only exacerbates the problems we'll be facing next year.

Now that the Senate is dealing with House bills, I will have the opportunity to work on legislation sponsored by my House *seatmates*:

House Joint Memorial 4007 passed the House 97-0-1 and has already passed the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee. This memorial asks Congress, President Bush and United States Postal Service to issue a postage stamp commemorating American coal miners. This is important to our constituents in Roslyn and Cle Elum.

SHB 2506 is also alive in the Senate. This bill would allow property owners to obtain access to their landlocked properties across state-owned land, and **ESHB 2356** would allow off-road vehicles on nonhighway roads. This is important to many hunters and recreational users of 4-wheelers.

Finally, **SHB 3055**, which is supported by the Grant County Prosecutors Office, would help in the fight against drunk driving. This bill removes the requirement that no breath testing device be present before a blood test may be requested by the police under certain circumstances. It also sets forth in statute the criteria for admissibility of breath test evidence in court.

I will spend the next week or so listening to House bills in the Senate Land Use and Planning Committee and doing all I can to see that the legislation sponsored by my House mates get fair and favorable treatment in the Senate.

Also, I want to let you know about a transportation project underway in the district. Two high-accident intersections on SR 28 near Quincy in Grant County will see improvements with the start of highway construction this week. The first road closure started on Tuesday (Feb. 17) and will go for about 15 days. All work is scheduled to be finished by the end of May.

This safety project will widen the intersection of SR 28 with "O" Road and with Adams Road to improve the turning radius for trucks. It will also provide left-turn lanes in both directions of the highway.

Ten serious accidents occurred at those intersections from 1999 through 2002. Until next week...

Joyce

Sen. Joyce Mulliken, 13th Legislative District